25. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY OF AQUATIC BEETLES (COLEOPTERA): 8.A NEW SUBGENUS OF *CLYPEODYTES* REGIMBART (DYTISCIDAE)

The genus *Clypeodytes* Regimbart (1894) has about 60 species; nearly 50 per cent of them belong to the Ethiopian region. It is distributed in all the tropical and subtropical zones of the world excepting Europe. Zimmermann (1920) reduced it to a subgenus of *Bidessus* Sharp, but later it was recognised as a genus with three subgenera by Guignot (1959). These subgenera are—*Lioclypeus* Guignot (1950), *Hypoclypeus* Guignot (1950) and *Clypeodytes* (s. str.). I did not divide the genus into various subgenera, as I had not then seen Guignot's (1959) paper, though a key to the species known from India (Vazirani 1969), more or less follows this division. On a reassessment of the position of these species, a new subgenus is proposed for the species *Clypeodytes hemani* Vazirani (1968). Other species, known from India, are also assigned to the various subgenera.

Genus CLYPEODYTES Regimbart

Subgenus **Paraclypeus** subgen. nov.

Type species.—*Clypeodytes hemani* Vazirani (1968).

Diagnosis.—All the characters of genus *Clypeodytes* Regimbart as redefined by Guignot (1959) plus the following characters.

Pronotal striae not continued on the elytra; elytra without any carina or costae.

Distribution.—India.

Genus *Clypeodytes*

KEY TO SUBGENERA (modified from Guignot, 1959)

1.	Laterobasal pronotal striae continued on the elytra ..	2
	Laterobasal pronotal striae not continued on the elytra ..	3
2.	Elytra neither carinate nor with any lateral costae ..	*Lioclypeus*
	Elytra carinate or with lateral costae, though very feeble ..	*Clypeodytes* (s. str.)
3.	Elytra neither carinate nor with any lateral costae ..	*Paraclypeus* subgen. nov.
	Elytra carinate or with lateral costae, though very feeble ..	*Hypoclypeus*

The species known from India are assigned to subgeneric combinations as under—

Clypeodytes (s. str.) *bufo* Sharp

Clypeodytes (*Lioclypeus*) *indicus* (Regimbart)

Clypeodytes (*Lioclypeus*) *orissaensis* Vazirani

Clypeodytes (*Lioclypeus*) *minutus* Vazirani

Clypeodytes (*Lioclypeus*) *horai* Vazirani
Clypeodytes (*Hypoclypeus*) *duodecimaculatus* Regimbart
Clypeodytes (*Hypoclypeus*) *severini* (Regimbart)
Clypeodytes (*Paraclypeus*) *hemani* Vazirani

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T. G. VAZIRANI

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26. THE ROLE OF VISUAL AND OLFACTORY FACTORS IN THE PREY-HUNTING BEHAVIOUR OF POMPILID WASPS (HYMENOPTERA: POMPILIDAE)

The Pompilid wasps are known to provision their nests in the ground with spiders which are stung and paralysed. The authors made the following observations of the prey-hunting behaviour of a species of Pompilid wasp (unidentified) inside the house during the day. The wasp generally flies into the room, flies close to the ceiling and the corners of the walls and then hovers around a spider's web. It then makes repeated quick approaches to the central hub of the web, finally seizes the spider and flies away with it.

Interestingly enough, the wasp was sometimes found flying around an electric bulb backed by a plate-like shade and mounted on a bracket on the wall. It exhibited for some time, about the same pattern of initial behaviour as that in relation to the spider's web and then flew away. Closer observation revealed that the wasp was repeatedly dashing against the central circular marking at the distal end of the bulb, bearing details of trade mark, voltage, wattage etc. It is quite likely that the wasp mistook this slightly dark, circular part of the bulb for the denser translucent central hub of a spider's web where the spider generally remains at rest, and was looking for its prey.